

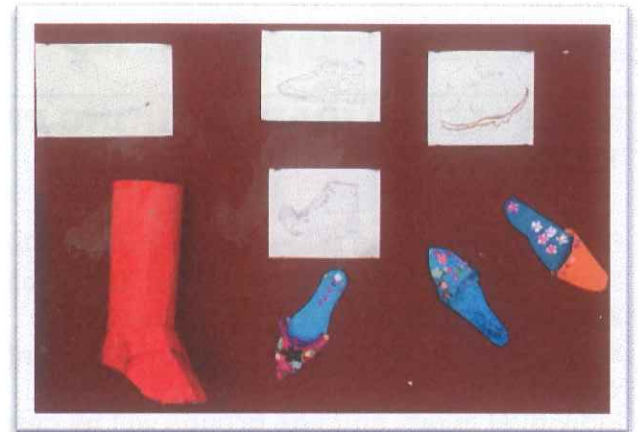


**OTAMA**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
*Little Footprints - Big Steps*

Term 3 Week 8

# Newsletter

Friday, 14 September 2018



## Principal Report

Kia ora,

As we get closer to the end of the term, we have begun assessments to ensure that everyone is learning the skills and knowledge to succeed, particularly in reading, writing, spelling, and maths. At the beginning of the year, the Board of Trustees set a target for all students to make 1.5 years progress in these areas in 2018. This means that we are aiming to accelerate the progress of all learners, while respecting their prior learning.

Normally I would wait until all assessment was completed, but because of the outstanding results of yesterday's reading assessment, I couldn't wait to share the results with you. I am pleased to tell the community that Otama School students have, as a cohort, made accelerated progress (much faster than the national average) in reading so far this year! Based on a quick calculation, this means that the graph of Otama students' reading is at an upwards 10-degree angle, compared to the national average which is at an angle of 4-degrees. This is a very rough way of working things out, but it does show some amazing success. I can't wait to share the results of our other assessments when they are available.

This evening at 6pm the Grand Final of the Southland Interschools Speech Contest is being held at Otama Hall. Otama community members are welcome to come and support us. It appears I have fallen into the role of MC for the evening, so it would be good to see some familiar faces.

Last week, we were visited by Ann Bixley of the NZ School Trustees Association at our Board of Trustees meeting. Ann went over the many roles that trustees have in ensuring optimal learning conditions. Being a trustee involves big responsibilities, so thank you to the Board of Trustees for their ongoing commitment to Otama School.

Congratulations to:

**Jack**, for modelling thoughtful and supportive behaviour when working with others.

**Ella**, for continuing to be a self-motivated and striving learner.

Have a great weekend.

Samuel Smith

Events Calendar	
Tuesday 18 September Year 7 & 8 Technology	Friday 14 September Grand Final Speech Contest (Otama Hall) 6pm

## Community Events

### **MINIBALL HOLIDAY TRAINING PROGRAMME for YEAR 3-6's**

**“Come along and learn from two of the best Mitchell Newton our hometown talent & Breaker Derone Raukawa a Breaker & Tall Black”**

Players will learn skills, play games, gain information on health while having fun.

Individual ability and age groups will be catered for, wherever possible.

**Please email [secretary@esba.org.nz](mailto:secretary@esba.org.nz) for an entry form.**

**Only 20 spaces each session!!**

Session 1:

**Date: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Time: 9am-3pm**

**Venue: Archer Basketball Stadium**

**Cost: \$70 per child (includes a T-Shirt)**

Session 2:

**Date: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> & Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Time: 9am-3pm**

**Venue: Archer Basketball Stadium**

**Cost: \$70 per child (includes a T-Shirt)**

### **Learn to Ride Term 4**

We are now taking registrations for the Term 4 Learn to Ride Track block for 2018.

This offers beginner children, aged 10 and up, an introduction to track cycling. Minimum height restriction 130cm.

Starts Wednesday 17 and Friday 19 October, from 4-5pm, and runs until the end of school term. Select either a Wednesday or Friday but not both.

\$85 fee includes, track hire, bike hire, coach and water bottle.

Phone 03 219 9325 or email [office@cyclingsouth.org.nz](mailto:office@cyclingsouth.org.nz) to register now.